



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Atty. Dkt. No. 00.05.12.1
Steven B. Laramay and) Art Unit: 1617
John H. Schneider)
Serial No. 09/770,931) Examiner: Gina C. Yu
Filing Date: January 26, 2001)
Title:) Duncan, Oklahoma 73534
ENCAPSULATED COMPOSITIONS) Date: April 21, 2003

RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION

The Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following remarks are presented in response to the Final Rejection mailed March 25, 2003.

Comments on Rejection

The rejection is confusing. Claims 16-28, 30, 34 and 35 are pending. Claims 29, 32 and 33 have been withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner, in paragraph 6 of the OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY, did not indicate the status of claim 30 as being rejected. This is confusing because numbered section 2 of the DETAILED ACTION does indicate that claim 30 is rejected. Clarification is requested.

The combination of references employed to reject the claims is not consistent with the claim pattern. The claim pattern is set forth below in Enclosure A which is attached hereto. Clarification is requested.

The Invention

This invention is an article of manufacture comprised of a capsule and a chemical composition. The capsule comprises a membrane wall surrounding a hollow interior. The composition is enclosed in the hollow interior of the capsule. The membrane wall is permeable to water and aqueous solutions, but is not soluble in aqueous liquids. The composition enclosed in the hollow interior of the capsule is, preferably, a solid, water-soluble chemical. The composition is not reactive with, soluble in nor a solvent for the membrane wall.

In use, the exterior of the capsule is placed in contact with a liquid containing water. The membrane wall is not reactive with, soluble in nor a solvent for liquid in contact with the exterior surface of the capsule. The water diffuses through the membrane wall, contacts and dissolves the composition in the interior of the capsule. The composition, now in aqueous solution, then diffuses through the membrane wall to the exterior of the capsule. During the diffusion process,